

From the Red Cloud Chief (Red Cloud, Webster County, Nebraska), volume 41, number 25, May 18, 1916:

ALLAN BLACKLEDGE PASSED EXAMINATION

Allan Blackledge who has been attending preparatory school at Annapolis, Maryland for the past five months, and took the April examination for entrance to the U. S. Naval Academy at that place, has received word that he successfully passed the examination.

There were 1800 candidates who took the examinations and out of that number 450 passed, making the percentage 25. Heretofore, the percent passing has usually been from 30 to 40, so that Allan feels much gratified by reason of having been able to land in the winning bunch.

He received his appointment from Congressman Schallenberger last fall, and underwent a preliminary physical examination by a surgeon of the Navy stationed at Omaha. It was found that a surgical operation was necessary to fit him for the strict requirements of the Academy. This kept him in a hospital three weeks since which time he has attended preparatory school and now seems fairly well assured to get the great advantages given by this government school and training although he has yet to pass the final physical examination on his entrance.

The young man is to be congratulated on the pluck and perseverance he has shown in grasping this opportunity which opens up to him a wide field of usefulness and endeavor.

#

At the other end of his Annapolis education is the Annual Register of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md, which for the 1919-1920 edition, on pages 56-57 lists ADB's academic standing and order of merit: **Graduating Class of June 6, 1919**

Blackledge, Allen [sic] Douglas - Appointed from Nebraska, Date of Admission **June 16, 1916**, at age 19 years, 11 months. His order of general merit for the academic year was 401. His time of Sea Service in Practice Ships was 5 months 21 days (the usual); his individual order of merit for the academic year was: Seamanship: 415;

Ordinance: 359; Navigation: 454;

Marine engineering and naval construction: 363

Electrical engineering and physics: 335 (good!)

Hygiene¹: 373

Efficiency: 271

Practice cruise: 272

Number of demerits for academic year: 79

His order of general merit for the academic year was 401. There were 456 in the class.

Of interest is that not all members of the class entered on the same day; in fact, there is quite a range. Allan entered on June 16, 1916, but others in his class entered as late as Sept 30 (appointed 'at large'), and as early as May 29 (from Montana).

¹ The only academic subject required by law at the Naval Academy!